



EX PARTE MEMORANDUM

July 26, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Closed Captioning Quality Meeting

On June 25, 2013, Adam Finkel and the undersigned, representing the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), met with various officials of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to discuss closed captioning standards on television for consumers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The Commission officials who were in attendance included Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief; Eliot Greenwald; Helen Chang; Rosaline Crawford; Kris Monteith; Cynthia Bryant.

During this meeting we discussed the current regulations regarding closed captioning and the potential future regulations regarding captioning quality and the technological and human components to provide these captions. Additionally, we discussed the possibility of expanding the number of media markets that captions are required and we noted that we would like to see 100 percent of all media markets to be captioned. The attached documents were also presented to the Commission staff as an educational tool to help them understand the role of NCRA, a draft of best practices developed by NCRA for captioning quality, and our captioning certification program.


We also discussed the expanded use of remote CART technology and how both areas are expanding. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Outlook states (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/court-reporters.htm>) that "Employment of court reporters is expected to grow by 14 percent from 2010 to 2020, as fast as the average for all occupations. Those with experience and training in techniques for

helping deaf and hard-of-hearing people, such as real-time captioning and Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART), will have the best job prospects. “

As the Bureau moves forward on closed captioning standards, NCRA is available as a resource to the FCC.

Pursuant to the Commission’s rules, this letter has been filed with the Secretary. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. G. Wenhold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC
President, Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies

Cc:
Karen Peltz Strauss
Eliot Greenwald